

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MICHELLE LOSCALZO,

Plaintiff,

-against-

NEW ROC HARLEY DAVIDSON AND
BUELL, INC.,

Defendant.

Civil Action No.

COMPLAINT

**PLAINTIFF DEMANDS
A TRIAL BY JURY**

ROBINSON

07 CIV. 3046

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
FILED
APR 16 P 1:13
S.D. OF N.Y. W.P.

I. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiff Michelle Loscalzo, an unmarried female American citizen, thirty nine years of age, seeks redress for discrimination on account of her sex, and for sexual harassment, suffered by her in violation of the Constitution and laws of the United States in her capacity as an employee of Defendant New Roc Harley Davidson And Buell, Inc.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This action is brought and jurisdiction lies pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§2000e(5) et seq., 2000e(16), and 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1343, this being a suit based upon the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1991 ("Title VII"), 42 U.S.C. §§2000e-2 et seq. In addition, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367(a), Plaintiff invokes the Court's supplemental jurisdiction as to pendent New York State claims arising under the New York State Human Rights Law ("NYSHRL"), N.Y. Exec. Law, Article 15, §290 et seq.

3. Venue is proper in this district because Plaintiff's claim for relief arose here and Defendant maintains its office, and is doing business, here.

III. PARTIES

4. Plaintiff Michelle Loscalzo ("Plaintiff") is a Caucasian unmarried female American citizen, thirty nine years of age, residing at 35 Shady Glen Court, New Rochelle, New York 10805.

5. Upon information and belief, Defendant New Roc Harley Davidson And Buell, Inc., a motor cycle sales and service dealership, is a New York corporation or a foreign corporation having substantial contacts with the State of New York, with offices at 8 Industrial Lane, New Rochelle, N.Y. 10805.

IV. FACTS

6. Plaintiff was employed by Defendant from November, 2005 to August 21, 2006 on a part time basis as a receptionist, and was employed as a full-time salesperson from August 21, 2006 until her discharge on February 8, 2007.

7. During her employment, Plaintiff performed her duties satisfactorily, with care and success.

8. During her employment, Plaintiff was repeatedly (essentially on a daily basis) subjected to numerous lewd and lascivious comments of a sexual nature by John Meskunas, Defendant's President and principal owner, frequently in the presence of other employees, which comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- a. "You have great tits";
- b. You have the best ass in the place";

- c. "You have a great ass;
- d. On an occasion after Plaintiff had had her hair done, Mr. Meskunas asked her "does your carpet match your drapes";
".
- e. When Plaintiff wore Harley Davidson apparel being sold by Defendant at work, which she was required to do, which apparel was even remotely form fitting, Mr. Meskunas commented "thanks for wearing that today," "come sit on my lap," "that's sexy", "why don't you hug me";
- f. On one occasion, Mr. Meskunas, who was sitting on a motorcycle displayed in the showroom, asked Plaintiff to get on the back seat to see whether it was comfortable and, in order to get onto the seat she was required to hold on to his shoulder, and as she was settling into the seat, Mr. Meskunas made groaning sounds and said "keep going, I'm almost there.";
- g. On another occasion, Mr. Meskunas told Plaintiff he was going on a business trip without his wife and asked that she accompany him.;
- h. Mr. Meskunas also made gender based sexist remarks such as telling Plaintiff that because she was "the girl in the sales department," she should "water the plants", "clean-up", "dust the motorcycles", "get him a soda", and the like;
- i. On another occasion Mr. Meskunas compared the size of Plaintiff's breasts to those of another female employee, saying Plaintiff had large breasts and the other employee did not.
- j. On an occasion, when a customer left the showroom without buying a motorcycle, Mr. Meskunas said to Plaintiff "with tits like that you should be able to sell ice to an eskimo";

9. Although Plaintiff repeatedly made it clear to Mr. Meskunas that she found his behavior offensive and unwelcome, he persisted therewith essentially on a daily basis.
10. In addition, Defendant's Sales Manager Wayne Sforza, Plaintiff's immediate supervisor, subjected her to unwarranted criticism, refused to pay her overtime in accordance with Defendant's policy, and interfered with her right to receive sales commissions she had earned because she refused to conform to his stereotypical view of women. Specifically, as he

told Plaintiff on an occasion when one of the other female employees was hugging Mr. Sforza and lavishing her attention on him, "see, if you behaved like this, we wouldn't have any problems."

11. On several occasions, Plaintiff complained to Defendant's General Manager Patti Massa about Mr. Sforza's behavior, but to no avail.

12. When Plaintiff was discharged, Mr. Meskunas told her that he couldn't say anything bad about her, but he had told her previously that he might have to fire her because his choice was to fire her as Mr. Sforza didn't like working with her, or to fire Mr. Sforza; and, of course, he chose to discharge Plaintiff.

13. Upon information and belief, Defendant will now claim that Plaintiff was discharged for poor sales performance and poor results on internet selling tests. Any such claim is totally false; and with respect to internet test results, Plaintiff was told to take said tests without benefit of being provided with the course material, despite her repeated requests to Mr. Meskunas' and Ms. Massa that she be supplied with same.

14. Defendant's anticipated proffered reason for discharging Plaintiff (unsatisfactory performance) is false and a pretext to discriminate against Plaintiff based upon her sex, and to avoid the consequences of Defendant's sexual harassment of Plaintiff.

15. Plaintiff has been denied equal terms, conditions and privileges of employment by reason of her female gender, and by reason of being subjected to sexual harassment.

16. On or about April 3, 2007, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued Plaintiff a Notice of Right to Sue, and Plaintiff thereafter commenced the within action.

17. The acts of Defendant of sexually harassing and then discharging Plaintiff in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and the NYSHRL have caused Plaintiff to be permanently and irreparably harmed, and damaged and cost her wages, bonuses, savings benefits, insurance coverage, and additional pension benefits, among other losses, as a result of the illegal discrimination.

V. FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

18. Plaintiff herewith realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs "1" through "17" of this Complaint.

19. As a result of the willful actions of Defendant, Plaintiff has been deprived of employment opportunities and her civil rights in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

VI. SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

20. Plaintiff herewith realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs "1" through "20" of this Complaint.

21. As a result of the willful actions of Defendant, Plaintiff has been deprived of employment opportunities and her civil rights in violation of the New York State Human Rights Law.

VII.. PRAAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE: Plaintiff prays:

A. Pursuant to the FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF against Defendant:

1. That the Court find and declare that Plaintiff has suffered from acts of sexual harassment and sex discrimination at the hands of Defendant, its agents, servants and employees;

2. That Plaintiff be awarded the back pay she would have earned, together with related monetary benefits and other compensatory damages resulting from Defendant's intentional, willful and malicious conduct, including, but not limited to, damages for future pecuniary loss, emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment of life and other non-pecuniary losses, had she not been discharged or sexually harassed.

3. That Plaintiff be awarded punitive damages for Defendant's intentional and willful conduct engaged in with malice and/or reckless indifference to Plaintiff's federally protected rights;

4. That the Court order such further equitable and injunctive relief as it deems appropriate and necessary to correct the conditions of discrimination complained of herein, including reinstatement and/or front pay;

5. That Defendant pay Plaintiff's costs of this suit, together with her attorneys' fees and prejudgment interest.

B. Pursuant to the SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF against Defendant:

6. That the Court find and declare that Plaintiff has suffered from acts of discrimination at the hands of Defendant, its agents, servants and employees;

7. That Plaintiff be awarded compensatory damages and the back pay she would have earned, together with related monetary benefits, had she not been discharged;

8. That the Court order such further relief as it deems appropriate and necessary to correct the conditions of discrimination complained of herein, including front pay;

9. That Defendant pay Plaintiff's costs of this suit, together with reasonable attorney's fees and prejudgment interest; and

10. That Defendant pay Plaintiff Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) as and for general damages for pain and suffering and emotional distress, incurred as a result of Defendant's conduct.

X. DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

Dated: White Plains, New York
April 16, 2007

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